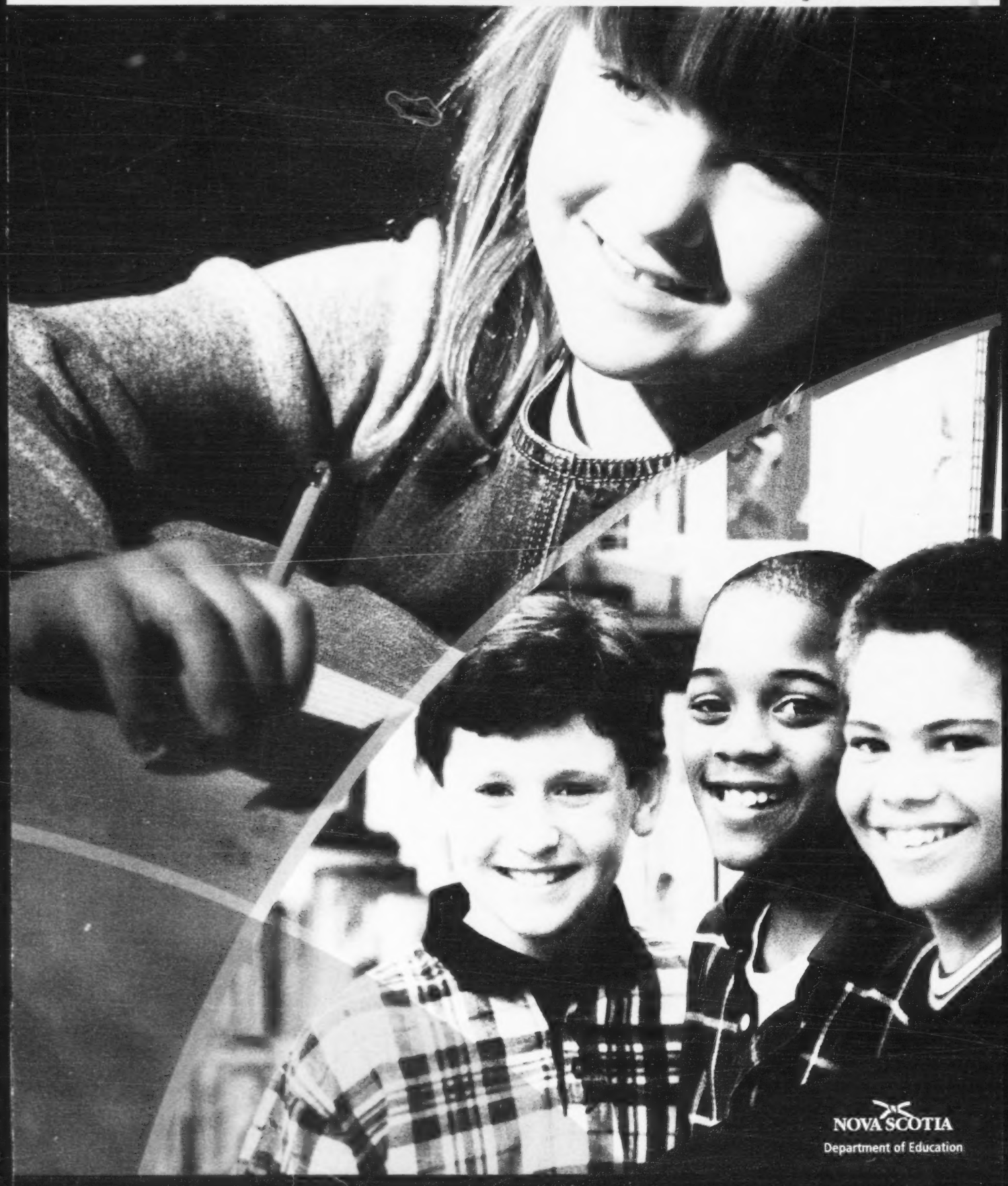
2003 Elementary Literacy Assessment • Schools Report

Strait Regional School Board



NOVA SCOTIA
Department of Education

Background

The Elementary Literacy Assessment is part of the province's Learning for Life plan to ensure young Nova Scotians have the literacy skills they need to succeed in school and in life. It was administered for the first time from October 14 to 17, 2003. During the assessment, students read a variety of materials, including a short story, information texts, a poem, and a visual media text, and answered questions based on those readings. Students were also required to write a letter suggesting a solution to a problem and write a story in response to a prompt. The chart below shows student performance in terms of not meeting, meeting, or exceeding the expectations for reading and writing.

Helping All Students Succeed

The assessment allowed grade 6 students in Nova Scotia to demonstrate how well they have learned selected reading and writing outcomes of the elementary language arts curriculum. Its purpose is to provide information about individual students' reading and writing skills, so that students who are struggling can be given more support to help them catch up. The Department of Education plans to build on its program of monitoring and supporting student progress with another literacy assessment to be administered when these grade 6 students reach grade 9.

Working With Teachers

The assessment was developed by the department's Testing and Evaluation Division with the help of grade 6 teachers and was field-tested in schools across Nova Scotia. The performance levels required in order for students to meet expectations in reading and in writing were determined by teachers. The writing sections of the assessment were marked by a team of teachers under the direction of the Department of Education.

Sharing Responsibility

It should be remembered that while literacy skills are developed in the school, they are also developed in the home, in the community, and in other areas of life and are influenced by many factors. The results of the Elementary Literacy Assessment, therefore, should not be seen solely as a reflection of students' teachers or schools, nor should the results be used to rank or compare schools.

	Reading																																
	Number of Students			Overall (%)			Males (%)			Females (%)			French Immersion (%)			Overall (%)			Males (%)			Females (%)			French Immersion (%)			Letter-writing (%)			Story-writing (%)		
	Overall	Males	Females	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding
Nova Scotia	10486	5232	5254	10	78	12	12	78	11	9	78	13	4	76	20	19	40	42	24	44	32	13	35	52	13	35	52	37	8	55	34	10	56
Strait Regional School Board	647	321	326	10	77	13	13	74	13	7	80	13	8	73	19	19	37	43	26	41	33	13	34	53	12	37	51	36	7	56	33	9	57
Bayview Education Centre	38	24	14	5	87	8	4	83	13	7	93					11	32	58	8	33	58	14	29	57				18	8	74	26	3	71
Cape Breton Highlands Academy-Education Centre	40	17	23	18	75	8	29	59	12	9	87	4	14	71	14	28	45	28	47	47	6	13	43	43		57	43	48	3	50	40	20	40
Chedabucto Education Centre-Guysborough Academy	31	17	14	10	81	10	12	82	6	7	79	14				23	45	32	29	47	24	14	43	43				42	6	52	42	23	35
East Antigonish Academy-Education Centre	44	16	28	18	66	16	25	69	6	14	64	21				16	48	36	25	56	19	11	43	46				39	11	50	32	9	59
East Richmond Education Centre	46	24	22	13	78	9	21	67	13	5	91	5	7	80	13	17	43	39	29	54	17	5	32	64	13	27	60	39	9	52	28	13	59
Fanning Memorial Education Centre	19	9	10	11	89		22	78			100					26	26	47	44	22	33	10	30	60				42		58	37		63
H.M. MacDonald Elementary School	14	9	5		71	29		67	33		80	20					21	79		11	89		40	60				7	7	86		7	93
Inverness Education Centre	32	16	16	9	81	9	13	69	19	6	94					16	34	50	13	44	44	19	25	56				38	3	59	22	6	72
Mulgrave Memorial Education Centre	11	8	3	27	64	9	25	63	13	33	67					9	82	9		88	13	33	67					73	9	18	36	27	36
Rev. H. J. MacDonald School	27	15	12	4	81	15		93	7	8	67	25				19	19	63	33	27	40		8	92				26		74	26	4	70
St. Andrew Junior School	138	68	70	6	74	20	9	68	24	3	80	17		80	20	11	33	57	13	34	53	9	31	60	7	33	60	25	7	68	26	6	68
St. Andrew's Consolidated School	45	24	21	9	73	18	13	67	21	5	81	14				27	38	36	42	33	25	10	43	48				44	11	44	40	4	56
St. Mary's Education Centre	32	15	17	3	78	19	7	93			65	35				19	53	28	27	67	7	12	41	47				38	9	53	31	28	41
Tamarac Education Centre	78	33	45	15	73	12	21	76	3	11	71	18	13	60	27	33	35	32	39	39	21	29	31	40	27	33	40	46	10	44	51	6	42
West Richmond Education Centre	37	19	18	5	89	5		89	11	11	89					16	41	43	21	53	26	11	28	61				41	3	57	30	3	68
Whycocomagh Education Centre	15	7	8	13	73	13	29	57	14		88	13				53	20	27	86		14	25	38	38				60	7	33	60	13	27

Note:

- Schools with six or fewer grade 6 students are not included in this report.
- 'Numbers of Students' does not include students from the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial, students with English Language Arts Individualized Program Plans, students who were exempted, or students from whom there was insufficient evidence.
- French immersion students wrote the assessment in English.
- 'Exceeds expectations' is a designation given to reading scores above 90% and writing scores that meet expectations in all elements of writing in both writing tasks. This designation does not appear on individual student reports.
- Percentages in each section may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Supporting Students

Providing individual and school-by-school results is part of the province's Learning for Life plan. The results give parents, teachers, school boards and the Department of Education information to support all students, especially those who are struggling with reading and/or writing.

Parents and guardians are getting their own children's results. Schools are contacting parents of students who did not meet expectations to discuss the results and ways to support these students. The support will continue in junior high and for as long as it is needed.

As well, each school has its own students' results, which will help teachers, principals, parents and guardians, and others with plans for improving their schools. All partners will have results each year to measure progress and the impact of decisions designed to improve students' literacy skills.

The department will continue to work with its partners to help all students in Nova Scotia learn and grow to their full potential.

For more information about the Elementary Literacy Assessment visit our website at <**plans.EDnet.ns.ca**>.